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WASHINGTON TIMES 18 October 1983

Californian accused of spying for Soviets

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The FBI has arrested a California engineer charged with selling the Soviets U.S. missile secrets and defense strategies for more than \$250,000 during the past four years, Director William Webster revealed yesterday.

A Defense official said the stolen documents described "extremely sensitive research... that would enable the Minuteman missile and other strategic forces to survive a pre-emptive nuclear attack by the Soviet Union."

The documents, he added, could "provide Warsaw Pact analysts with a windfall of intelligence information about the capabilities of our strategic forces and our present and future plans to the defend them." according to the FEI.

James Durwood Harper Jr., 49, an electrical engineering consultant in

California's "Silicon Valley" — a center of high-technology research — was arrested Saturday at his home in Mountain View, Calif., the FBl said.

Webster, announced the arrest as Harper, appearing handcuffed before U.S. Magistrate Owen Woodruff in San Francisco, was ordered held without bond for a preliminary hearing Oct. 27.

"I have no intention of hiring a lawyer." Harper said. "My intent is to cooperate with the government in every way I can to expedite the proceedings."

The FBI is continuing the investigation and expects to make additional arrests, a spokesman said.

Harper reportedly sold the documents — more than 100 of them — to a contact in the Polish intelligence service, who used a Soviet "shopping list" in making the purchases and immediately turned the loot over to the KGB.

The FBI said a U.S. spy within the Polish intelligence service reported

KGB officials "were extremely excited to have the documents" and Yuri Andropov, then head of the KGB, presented the Polish agents with awards.

Harper obtained and photocopied documents his wife, Ruby Louise, stole from Systems Control Inc., a defense contract facility at Palo Alto, Calif., where she worked before her death last June, the FBl said.

Agents found Harper's fingerprints on some of the original documents, the FBI said.

In September 1981, the FBI said, an attorney sent the CIA a long narrative in which his client, then anonymous, described his dealings with the Polish agents during trips to Switzerland, Austria and Poland.

The unidentified attorney said his client offered to provide information that could lead to the arrest of others in exchange for a grant of immunity for himself.

Apparently U.S. officials made no such deal, however.

Unknown to this client, whom the FBI later identified as Harper, the U.S. contact in the Polish intelligence service provided corresponding details from his sources and described the Soviet elation over Harper's service.

The FBI said it recovered some documents and is looking for others.

Harper obtained so many documents that he began referring to them by the pound. For an initial meeting with the Polish contact, the narrative said, Harper "collected 50 to 100 pounds" of documents to sell, according to an affidavit filed with the court by Special Agent Allan M. Power.

At a later point, Harper's narrative said, "I have stashed probably about what I would guesstimate about 150-200 pounds of defense documents..."
Power speculated that Harper never delivered this "stash."